

## Numbers 31:1-7 - Thursday, February 24th, 2011

31:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

- Right out of the shoot, we start off with an interesting couple of verses. Moses is given one more assignment before he goes to heaven.
- And, this assignment is no ordinary one in that he is told to "take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel." Wow!!!

- Perhaps your thinking to yourself that vengeance is wrong, and now we see God telling Moses to do it. Well, there's a reason for it.
- It's important to understand; this is God's vengeance not man's, and the scriptures are quite clear about, to Whom vengeance belongs.

**Romans 12:19 KJV** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

3 So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.

- It's interesting to note how Moses prepares them for battle by telling them to put on armor for war against the Midianites, for the Lord.
- This is the "just" nature of God meting out vengeance for when Balaam taught them to seduce the Israelites so as to bring God's curse.
- Now, I want to draw your attention to this word "Arm" and point out that there are only two usages of this word in the New Testament.

**Luke 11:21-22** Luke 11:21-22 NIV (21) "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. (22) But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

**Ephesians 6:10-20 NIV** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (13) Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (14) Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, (15) and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (16) In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (17) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (18) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (19) Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, (20) for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

VS.	ARMOR	REPRESENTATION	APPLICATION
14	Belt	Truth	To hold together notwithstanding falsehood and lies.
14	Breastplate	Righteousness	To guard the heart against feelings and emotions.
15	Shoes	Peace	To take the ground with stability and mobility.
16	Shield	Faith	To extinguish the arrows from the fire and burn.
17	Helmet	Salvation	To protect the mind against thoughts and ideas.
17	Sword	Scripture	To have an offense to resist the Devil and his demons.

**Warren Wiersbe** "Armor and weapons are not sufficient to win a battle; there must be energy to do the job. Our energy comes from prayer. We use the sword of the Spirit, and we pray in the Spirit: the Holy Spirit empowers us to win the battle."

- One of the reasons I wanted to take the time to go into this, is because of its importance as it relates to our spiritual battles in this life.
- While our battle may not be against the Midianites, or flesh and blood in the physical sense, we are in a battle in the spiritual sense.
- It's for this reason that I believe we have passages like the ones we just looked at. Like Moses, heaven's path is paved with battles.

**Warren W. Wiersbe - The Strategy of Satan "How to Detect and Defeat Him" p 127** "It comes as a shock to the new believer that the Christian life is a battleground and not a playground. In my pastoral ministry, I could always tell when a new Christian was starting to mature because he found himself fighting battles. This was a good sign because as Spurgeon used to say, "Satan never kicks a dead horse!" If you are going to win the battle, you must know the enemy, possess power and equipment to attack him, and also have protection against him."

- I suppose you could say that God doesn't want us to be ill equipped when it comes to the battles we face in our Christian lives.
- I think of Esther, when the Israelites were equipped with weaponry and armor for victory in the battle due to the King's irreversible edict.
- In other words, God will provide us, and equip us, with that which we need for the victory, when we find ourselves under spiritual attack.

PERSON	EVE	JOB	DAVID	JOSHUA
SATAN'S TARGET	the mind	the body	the will	the heart and conscience
SATAN'S WEAPON	lies	suffering	pride	accusation
SATAN'S PURPOSE	ignorant of God's will	impatient with God's will	independent of God's will	indictment by God's will
OUR DEFENSE	inspired Word of God	imparted grace of God	indwelling Spirit of God	interceding Son of God

Warren W. Wiersbe The Strategy of Satan "How to Detect and Defeat Him" p 94

4 A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war." 5 So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

- The Lord has them recruit one thousand from each tribe for a total of 12,000 who are then armed before they are sent into this battle.
- One commentator suggested that the reason for sending 1,000 from each tribe was to give them equal responsibility and equal victory.

- Another commentator suggested that God could have sent more, however, the victory will come regardless of the numbers or the odds.
- Gideon is a good example of this. Interesting; Gideon's victory with only 300 men was in a battle against none other than the Midianites.

6 Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand.7 And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males.

- Notice he sends with them Phinehas, the son of Eleazar the priest, and he has with him the holy articles and signal trumpets as well.
- In other words, why wouldn't Joshua, as the military leader, and Moses' successor be sent instead. I believe that there are two answers.

- Phinehas was the one who boldly meted out God's judgment on a man and woman in a sexually immoral act in the Tabernacle.
- Also, I see this as evidence of the nature of this battle being a spiritual one, as he was the son of Eleazar who was the High Priest.